

**'The Land Is Our Mother'**

Many Farms, Ariz. — (RNS) — "The desecration of the earth must stop," a Hopi Indian religious leader said of strip coal mining in northeast Arizona.

"Strip mining will affect the earth, and The Great Spirit says not to allow it," Thomas Banyacya told students at Navajo Community College here. "The Indians are the caretakers of this area. The land is our mother. The Four Corners region is its heart."

Black Mesa strip mining operations have aroused the opposition of ecologists and conservationists throughout the Southwest.

**College Gets 'Unprecedented' Gift**

Buffalo, N.Y. — (RNS.) — A retired radio evangelist and former Methodist pastor has given \$500,000 toward the construction of a building at Jesuit-maintained Canisius College.

Msgr. James M. Damske, SJ., president, announced the "unprecedented gift" from Dr. Clinton H. Churchill. He said a new 11-story building will be named the "Churchill Academic Tower."

Dr. Churchill explained that he gave the funds to Canisius largely because he is United Methodist and the college is Catholic. When he entered the ministry 55 years ago, he stated, churches were hostile to each other and "I believed we all had a job to do and we should work together. Now this has come true faster than I had thought possible."

Dr. Churchill was once pastor of the North Delaware Methodist church in Buffalo. He voluntarily left the active ministry about 40 years ago to pursue a career as a radio (later television) evangelist in the area. He invested wisely over the years. United Methodist Bishop W. Ralph Ward of Syracuse, whose jurisdiction includes Buffalo, describes Dr. Churchill as a "fine old gentleman who wants to share what he has accumulated with everyone."

**WCC Says Draft Evaders Needy**

New York — (RNS) — The World Council of Churches' U.S. office said here that the Council's appeal for aid to American draft evaders in Canada makes no judgment regarding the rightness of the evaders' position, nor is it intended to encourage draft evasion.

"The WCC views the Canada need in exactly the same terms it has applied over the past two decades to other refugee situations," the statement said. It cited Hungary, Nigeria and Vietnam as situations where "people are in great need because of international turbulence."

"Christians who have the means to do so are expected to respond to that need, without inquiring into the political thinking of the refugee," the WCC's U.S. office said.

The WCC has asked member Churches for \$70,000 annually to support a three-year program aiding American men now in Canada. The funds would supplement programs already begun by the Canadian Council of Churches.

**Londoners Protest Swedish Film**

London — (RNS) — Christians of several denominations protested the showing in London's cosmopolitan East End of a Swedish film they said "concentrated on lesbianism, perversion and murder" in a pseudo-religious context.

The film is named "Anybody's." On two consecutive evenings the demonstrators, numbering about 70 to 80 and of all ages, marched up and down outside the theater entrance.

**Seeks Freedom to Serve Poor**

Naples — (RNS) — An Italian priest who became a "bum" to gain the confidence of street urchins here 20 years ago has asked to be relieved of his duties as director of a shelter for homeless boys so he can be free to teach more people how to improve their lives.

Father Mario Borelli won international fame by helping thousands of homeless boys in Naples with "bread, shelter and love." His efforts, amid famine and misery following the war years, were later depicted in an Italian-German movie. The priest's institution was known as the "House of Urchins," and he has maintained the home for 20 years in an abandoned church.

Father Borelli said he wishes to remain in the priesthood, but he freed from ecclesiastical jurisdiction because his future activities might cause some embarrassment to the Church.

**Hungarians Consult With Vatican**

Vatican City — (RNS) — Vatican press officer Frederico Alessandrini said here that representatives of the Hungarian government had held talks with Vatican officials in Rome "on ways of improving church-state relations in Hungary."

He said the talks were a "continuation" of contacts following the 1964 "protocol," which "resolved some of the difficulties faced by the Catholic Church in Hungary."

In September, 1964, Hungary agreed to grant the Church more freedom in appointing bishops in the country and modified a loyalty oath expected of priests. A question unsettled, however, was freedom to provide religious instruction.



**Marc Boegner Dies**

Pastor Marc Boegner, one of the world's foremost ecumenists and a dominant figure in French Protestantism, died in Paris Dec. 20 at age 89. Often described as "the grand old man of French Protestantism," his career spanned the Third, Fourth and Fifth French Republics. A tireless champion of Christian unity, he was president of the French Protestant Federation from 1929 to 1961 and a president of the World Council of Churches from 1948 to 1954. (RNS)

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